

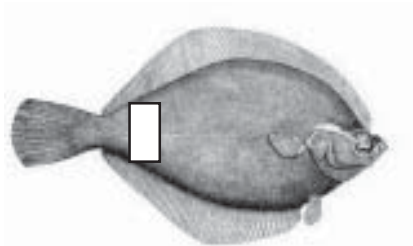
## AGE STRUCTURE SAMPLE COLLECTION

36

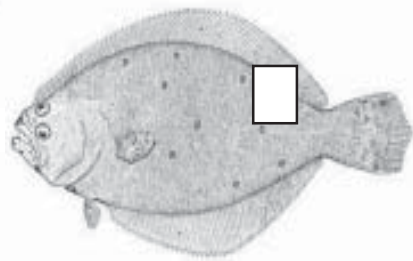
### SCALES

**Figure 12.** Location from which to collect scales from various fish.

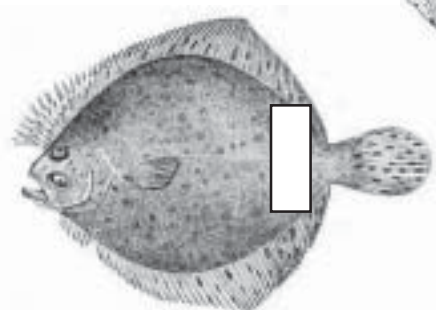
Most fish, for example:



Yellowtail Flounder

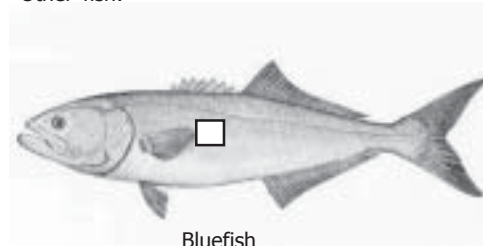


Summer Flounder

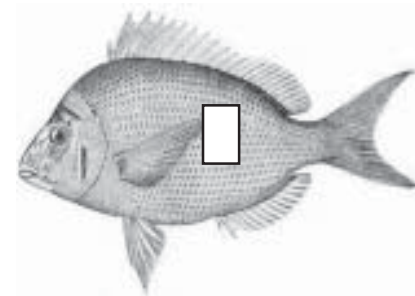


Windowpane Flounder

Other fish:



Bluefish



Scup

General considerations for age structure sample collection:

Otoliths: Exercise care when cutting the fish to remove the otoliths so as not to shatter them. Shattered otoliths are of little value.

Scales: Do your best to remove mucus, debris and epidermis from the fish before collecting scales. Only scales collected from the proper locations can be used for aging.

**Figure 13.** Age structure envelope.

NOAA/NMFS  
FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Obs./Trip ID A03099-

Haul # 15

Haul Date 05 11 01

Statistical Area 539

Species Yellowtail Fldr

Length 32 cm

Disposition 12 Sex Unknown

Wgt 1 Male 1

Transferred 1 Female X

← Every envelope must have a liner.

← Sample envelopes containing age structures from the same species and disposition codes should be grouped together. Each group of envelopes should contain a header envelope. All of the required information should be filled out on the header envelope and each envelope following the header should only contain the length of the species sampled.

Disposition: Record appropriate kept or discarded fish disposition **code** in the space provided. The code must match the fish disposition code as recorded on accompanying length frequency log.

## AGE STRUCTURE SAMPLE COLLECTION